

Indiana Department of Education



Division of Exceptional Learners

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Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders August 21, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Naomi Swiezy, Leah Nellis, Loui Lord Nelson, Susan Pieples, Cathy Pratt, Ann Schnepf, Kristen Schunk, Lilia Teninty, Greg Wilson, Sheila Wolfe, Michelle Trivedi (guest), Nina Brahm (guest)

- 1) **Announcements:** Naomi introduced a new structure to the group that will be used for future meetings. Loui shared information about the drafted At-A-Glance summary of Task Force Recommendations form Across the Country.
- 2) **Indiana Coalition on Autism and Statewide Comprehensive Plan:** Liz Freeman-Floyd and Susan Pieples reviewed their role in the Indiana Commission on Autism's comprehensive plan. They are working with several individuals to create a survey for parents, family members, and providers of individuals with autism or on the spectrum. Many stakeholder meetings have been set for across the state.
- 3) **Review of the Rule 26 Committee, Advisory Council updates, and Article 7 information:** Nina Brahm provided an overview of the IDEIA regulations, Indiana's decision-making process for Article 7, and addressed questions and concerns brought up by the Task Force on ASD at the June meeting.
- 4) **Working Lunch**
- 5) **Overview of Insurance Concerns for Families:** Michelle Trivedi gave the Task Force a history of how insurance companies have not provided coverage to individuals who have autism, how there have been individual state movements to create legislative insurance mandates, what her involvement has been in the state of Indiana, and what she hopes to see in the future both nationally and locally.
- 6) **IRCA Data Summary:** Cathy Pratt reviewed those data collected through the IRCA survey. The information will be presented to the Indian Commission on Autism on August 24, 2006.
- 7) **Survey Discussion and Update from Groups:** Naomi reviewed the intent behind the task force survey reminding the group that the survey would not duplicate current efforts by any other groups. Instead, it is the intent of the task force to combine data from these different organizations to inform our final product. Naomi distributed a list of potential questions for medical providers for the group to examine and discuss. The education group will create a list of questions they feel are appropriate for educators and will bring those to the next task force meeting.
- 8) **Debrief of the Insurance Information Provided by Michelle Trivedi:** The group broke down the information provided by Michelle into the four principle groups of policy, service, training and collaboration. The points drawn out by this exercise will help guide the questions created for the survey. Information that Michelle distributes can be found as a link on the Task Force on ASD home page.